North Cambridge Academy

→ July 2013

MUSICIANS
MAKE THEIR MARK

CYCLING
THE GLOBE FOR CHARITY

+ SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

CONTENTS

3. Welcome

4-5. A New Era

6-7. School News

8. Sport

COMPETITION:

We'll be producing this school magazine three times a year (Summer, Christmas and Easter) for students, parents and members of the local community. You can be a part of it by submitting ideas for content to **ncamag@outlook.com.**

But first of all we need a great name! Submit your suggestions to **ncamag@outlook.com** and win an IPod Shuffle courtesy of Athene Communications (your choice of colour!).

WELCOME

A Welcome from one of our partner schools

Nene Park Academy in Peterborough welcomed a group of Manor students earlier this term as they stopped off at NPA en route to taking part in a variety of activities at Nene Park. The students were able to look around the school and glimpse their new build which is due to open in September 2013.

I am delighted to introduce the first edition of the termly magazine from the North Cambridge Academy. I am also delighted to introduce myself as the new Principal of the Academy from September 2013.

I hope this magazine gives you a good idea of the activities which have taken place and been organised by pupils and staff during the last term. There's already been a lot of change here over recent months and the pace of change will continue. In this magazine you will read about our new uniform and our new house system as well as lots of other news.

There are many good things about this school and its teachers and pupils – and we obviously want to keep hold of these things. But it's clear we need to do more. Every student who comes here deserves to have the very best opportunities to succeed and it's the responsibility of all of us who work here to make this happen. I firmly believe that a school cannot thrive in isolation and that being a part of the local community is absolutely essential, and I hope that even before our new build is complete, you'll find a reason to attend the events and activities planned during the first term of 2013-14.

We are keen to show off our school and involve as many people as possible in our journey. So, whether you are a pupil, parent, teacher, governor or member of our local community I that you will support and encourage us and help celebrate our successes along the way.

If you're a student, you can contribute news stories or features. If you're a friend of the school we'd love to hear from you too. Please email suggestions for articles to **ncamag@outlook.com**

Martin Campbell, Principal (September 2013)

"I am delighted to introduce our first magazine as North Cambridge Academy. As Chair of Governors I am looking forward to working with Martin to raise achievement in the core subjects and to building relationships with our local partners and feeder primaries to make sure our new school becomes a key part of the local community."

Cllr Andy Pellew, Chair of Governors

PS: Look out for our special edition magazine this autumn, which will focus on our plans for a new school building

"HAVING A HOUSE SYSTEM IS PART OF A PROCESS KNOWN AS 'VERTICAL TUTORING'"

A New Era

STUDENTS PLAY KEY ROLE IN CHOOSING NEW SCHOOL NAME, UNIFORM AND LOGO

The Manor School will officially become the North Cambridge Academy on DATE.

The new name was chosen and developed by students in a process which involved all year groups.

After an initial creative session in the main hall involving all students; a vote ranked the most popular designs. The top three designs were then developed by a small *design group* comprising four students, Brandon Spring, Matthew Turpin, Lara Mackey and Gabija Laurutyte.

The four worked on key values of learning, growing and developing, using the three house colours: red, blue and green.

The final logo, which is based on an original design by Brandon was then further developed in detail by Brandon and Matthew. Their sketches were then professionally drawn up by a design agency.

Matthew Turpin said: "We worked to pull together elements of the three most popular logos. We wanted something that was strong and dynamic. We discussed that the 'leaves' of the logo represent growth and knowledge; the continuous line represents the never-ending journey of learning and the 'leaves' are different in size representing how students grow as people throughout their time in school."

House Proud

Earlier this year students got creative to think of potential house names. The deliberations continued and students recently confirmed the three houses (and colours) for the North Cambridge Academy as **XXX, XXX and XXX.**

However, being part of a house is much more than just a name. There's a whole load of fun stuff – the sense of pride which comes from winning house 'points' for a job well done; the competition between houses for cups and trophies in sports, music, drama; and much more!

There is also a serious side. Having a house system is part of a process known as 'vertical tutoring', which aims to create a strong team and community identity linking in with the curriculum teams.

The North Cambridge Academy will have three houses. Every House has a senior tutor and curriculum leader. There are a number vertical tutor groups within each house comprising of a cross section of students from years 7 and 11.

The system reflects and delivers the commitment to 'know, value and support every student to achieve.'

The Houses provide support and guidance, and the needs of every student are known by his or her tutor and senior tutor. The system enables individual progress to be monitored much more closely and the House is the focus of the relationship between the school and families, with siblings in the same House.

The House Office is the focal point for the House with the Student Support Assistant available at all times during the school day to support the needs of students and parents within that House family.

Every House will also be linked to a Cambridge Museum to extend experiences for students beyond the school walls.

Introducing CMAT

As the Manor makes its transition to the North Cambridge Academy, it becomes part of a wider group of schools in the Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) family. The Trust which also runs Nene Park Academy in Peterborough and Swavesey Village College, will also run the new school at Northstowe when it is built. CMAT was incorporated in March 2011 to deliver and promote 'high quality and dynamic educational provision at the heart of the community'. It was founded by the Governors and Trustees of Swavesey Village College, an outstandingly successful and innovative secondary foundation school eight miles west of Cambridge.

LOOKING GOOD

More than 300 students took part in a vote to choose the North Cambridge Academy's new uniform. The most popular choice was for black cardigans or jumpers, teamed with black trousers or skirts and a white blouse or shirt. Uniforms will be available from school, further details will be sent to students directly.

SCHOOL NEWS

CRYSTAL GROWING CHAMPIONS!

Who knew you could grow crystals? Well, the crystal growing team from year 7 grow the best in the region!

The team won first prize in the Eastern region competition run by the MRC (Medical Research Council). The award winners came together on a Thursday lunchtime to grow their own potash alum crystals. The best three were entered into the competition and grabbed first place for the school.

The lucky winners will now have a tour of the MRC laboratories and take part in some hands on science activities.

All of the crystals grown were put on display and mounted on mini pedestals created by students in the technology room. Each of the pedestals had a red LED which illuminated the crystals from below.

Well done to the award winning crystal growers!

> **WE CURRENTLY HAVE JUST OVER 1,100 PLAYS IN TOTAL**

Thresholds – Students Inspired by University Poetry Project

Students and teachers attended an evening reception in May to review a university poetry project they'd been involved with. Guests at the Thresholds event at the Fitzwilliam Museum watched a film starring many of the former Manor School's pupils.

Thresholds is an ambitious project which invited ten poets to be in residence at eight Cambridge University museums as well as at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and Cambridge University library.

The residencies involved groups of young people – including those from the Manor School – in public readings, performances, displays, and exhibitions and new poetry.

MUSICIANS MAKE THEIR MARK

There have been more than 1,000 plays of music performances by students on the music site Soundcloud.

The performances range from classical piano arrangements to covers of recent hits and demonstrate the width and breadth of the school's musical talent.

Lead Music Practitioner Ben Mulholland said: "I created a Soundcloud page to showcase some of the work our students have done in music. The students have really taken to it, both in terms of listening to what is on the website and being keen to get their performances uploaded. We currently have just over 1,100 plays in total - which is impressive as the website has only been live for two months."

Ben leads the school's music department and is ambitious for the future development of the subject. He envisages that music will become an integral part of the students' time at our school, involving them in performances, trips and extra-curricular musical activities. The Soundcloud website is just one method being used to promote music within the school and encourage students to get involved.

You can listen to the performances by searching The Manor Music Department at www.soundcloud.com/the-music-department

ZIP WIRES AND RAFT BUILDING IN FUN-PACKED TRIP

Twenty five students from year 7 got a taste of adventure in May, when they attended an action-packed weekend at Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire.

The students took part in a variety of activities including raft building, zip wires, rock climbing and abseiling.

Working together, the group made new friends and learned new skills. The weekend ended with a disco in which two of our own students won dance-off competitions! A perfect way to end a happy and muddy weekend.

Cycling the Globe for Charity

Food Technology Instructor Mrs Curtis is no stranger to cycling, but she is currently planning to take on bike rides to test even the most committed of peddlers. Mrs Curtis is planning to undertake exotic cycle challenges to Tanzania and Zanzibar as part of her work for the Genesis Research Trust – a charity founded by Professor Lord Robert Winston which promotes the science of health in mothers and babies. Mrs Curtis has already participated in charity cycle rides in China, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Her fundraising page for the next cycles can be found at **www.justgiving.com/Sue-Curtis**

To submit your news for the next magazine please email ncamag@outlook.com

Photo caption: Mrs Curtis and Professor Lord Robert Winston

SPORT

A WORD FROM JOSH HARRIS – ACTING HEAD OF PE

"We're focusing on building sports teams in all years and this will remain a focus as we move into the new school year.

"It's been excellent to see the netball team start to play against new teams including the Perse School and this is something we really want to build on.

"We have great plans for PE here and are looking at getting more students involved in a variety of sports as well as introducing sports tours for some of our more established teams."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Name: Brandon Spring

Subject: Year 10 BTEC Sport Student

Sport: Boxing

Core achievements: Ten wins out of 14 in amateur boxing matches. As well as boxing, Brandon is also a 400m athletics and high jump champion.

Brandon's View: "Life as a student at our school is very fun and exciting, especially the sport. We have three amazing PE teachers who give 100% effort every lesson into looking after us and making sure no-one is left out. The lessons are enjoyable and challenging ensuring you achieve the best you can. The teachers organise us a range of trips, extra-curricular clubs and fixtures; such as the recent Olympic Cup athletics competition, providing students like me a great opportunity to be recognised and represent the school. I love sport and always have but these teachers make it ten times better!"

NETBALL: SQUAD BUILDS

The Year 7 netball squad faced strong opposition in their first year of representing the school. The team narrowly missed out on wins, securing three successful draws and losing games by only 2 – 3 points. The team travelled all around Cambridge facing opposition from both independent and state schools, experiencing afternoon teas and meeting new friends. The team cannot wait for the next season and their determination to win is really inspiring them. They will hopefully be involved in the school's first ever European Netball Sport tour!

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brandon throws for county victory
Year 7 student Brandon Wright grabbed first place in the javelin county schools athletics tournament.

Teachers triumph in annual clash
The staff cricket team romped to victory in an inter-school clash against teachers from Parkside. The Manor teachers scored 234 runs to triumph over Parkside's 223.

Rounders: Teams feature in tournaments
The year 7 and 8 rounders teams have had a busy season. The year 8 team won two games during their county tournament and the year 7 team are preparing for their tournament later in July.

Football Squad
Year 7 – 11 had a good season overall winning a high percentage of their fixtures. The year 8s in particular gave a fantastic performance in the district tournament and finished a very respectable sixth. Year 7-9 also played in the Peterborough six-a-side tournament hosted by sister academy, Nene Park. The team managed some excellent results with Toby Elbsom scoring the goal of the tournament with a sublime chip.

Rugby team
The year 8 rugby team built on last year's success and performed admirably at the district tournament, finishing twelfth. The team also entered the Elite 7s tournament held by Northampton Saints and, against very strong opposition, did fantastically well.

Sports Represented in this year:
- Netball
- Rugby
- Football
- Rounders
- Athletics

Sports to be represented next year:
- Netball
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Football
- Rounders
- Athletics